

JUDGE J. BLAINE ANDERSON

By James Bevis

It is unfair to others who knew Judge Anderson that they are unable to contribute to this Memoriam. Any such co-authors could only offer praise for the man they likely most admired in their lives. However, for a man so deserving of praise, the Judge was always embarrassed by it and quick to redirect the conversation back to his interest in you. Friendships were special to Judge Anderson, and if you had the pleasure of knowing him, you knew that your bond with him was individual and unique.

Judge Anderson's habits were famous, his routines inviolate. His coffee was a special blend which he stopped drinking at 4:00 p.m. After dinner at home or at the Marines Memorial Hotel in San Francisco, where he regularly stayed when on calendar, the Judge reviewed the briefs for the next day's scheduled hearings. Such reviews were likely to be his second.

The Judge went to his office or chambers every Saturday morning at

the same time, even after arriving late from San Francisco the night before. Despite excruciating back pain, he would persist in writing at his drafting table instead of calling it quits for the day. In the early morning he was not given to conversation, and driving his car offered a respite from the demands of his profession, and a time of quiet reflection.

Always anxious to visit with his staff, Judge Anderson ate at the Federal Building cafeteria, and when traveling to Coeur d'Alene as a Federal District Judge, he would join his traveling staff at meal times. When he stayed in Pocatello, the Judge felt at home in the Bannock Hotel, and continued to stay there even when its condemnation would have been a Godsend.

For those who are workaholics, Judge Anderson served notice that such a notion was not out-dated. Preparedness, thoroughness and duty were virtues exemplified by the Judge. Despite a full workload, he still found time to address civic groups, a graduating class, or a local Bar Association.

The only time that Judge Anderson could not give of himself fully was when his old friend Judge Fred Taylor was very ill in the hospital at the same time that the funeral for their former law clerk, Cy Rood, was being held. Cy had been the Judge's first clerk, loaned to him by Judge Taylor.

Despite the Judge's affection for work, his love of family was always foremost. When visiting the Judge, his conversation invariably began with an inquiry about your family, and he always added news about his beloved wife, Grace, his daughter Leslie, and his sons Eric, J.B. and Dirk.

There was a Western, or more accurately, an Idaho influence sur-

rounding Judge Anderson. While he lived in Idaho's largest city, he lived on an acreage complete with horses and Grace's garden, in which he took great pride. His interests lay in Idaho history, particularly its legal history. His father was general counsel for the Union Pacific Railroad, and his son J.B. is a lawyer in Montana.

Judge Anderson loved Idaho's wide open spaces and dry hills, and he was very proud of its lawyers. He often remarked with pride that Judges on the Ninth Circuit found Idaho lawyers to be the best prepared.

Judge Anderson graduated from Pocatello High School and attended Idaho State University from 1940-1941 when he left to serve in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II. Upon completion of his tour of duty he resumed his education at the University of Washington in 1945, and graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1949. He married Grace Little in Pocatello November 14, 1944.

The Judge began private practice in Blackfoot the year he graduated from the U of I, and became active in the Idaho State Bar. Judge Anderson served in the American Bar Association as a member of the House of Delegates and Board of Governors. On December 9, 1971 he was appointed Federal District Judge for the District of Idaho. He became a Circuit Judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in July of 1976. He returned from hearing cases in San Francisco the evening prior to his death and worked in his office that morning.

Judge Anderson's judicial ethics were a model: A side bar unheard-of. His social life was essentially nonexistent for fear of the appearance of impropriety. The Judge refused to even place a dollar bet on a football pool. If you wanted to buy his lunch,



Judge Anderson served from 1941-1945 in the U.S. Coast Guard.

he politely but firmly declined.

He loved lawyers and admired their skill. Judge Anderson walked to the bench anxious to listen and willing to contemplate a close question. No case was unimportant, and every litigant had his undivided attention. He never dressed down a lawyer who misbehaved in his presence — a calm suggestion in chambers away from the client was Judge Anderson's method. He appreciated the delicate relationship between lawyer and

client. He wanted to hear from every criminal defendant at sentencing. While not so naive as to think that his words could change a criminal defendant's life, he had faith in humanity and human worth. Like all judges, he was uncomfortable passing judgement on another human being.

Judge, we will miss your kind smile. You gave us inspiration and we are grateful that you touched our lives. □

The law clerks and staff of Judge J. Blaine Anderson will dedicate a memorial in his honor at the University of Idaho Law School in the fall of 1988. Memorabilia on display will be provided by Judge Anderson's loving family and associates.

In addition, a scholarship for University of Idaho law students will be dedicated in Judge Anderson's name. Donations may be sent to: The Judge J. Blaine Anderson Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 827, Boise, ID 83701. □

SATISFIED WITH YOUR CURRENT PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE?

Or do you often feel that your premiums are too high—or your coverage too limited? Attorneys Liability Protection Society was created specifically and exclusively for and by attorneys to help assure you get the most for your premium dollar. Give us a call!



**TOLL-FREE:
1-800-FOR-ALPS**

FRED. S. JAMES & CO. P.O. BOX 2151 SPOKANE, WA 99210 ATTN: C.H. STEILEN (509) 455-3900